

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSPORT
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES
WORKSHOP
March 5, 2012**

A Workshop meeting of the Williamsport Mayor and Council was held on March 5, 2012, at the Williamsport Town Hall in Williamsport, MD at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance were:

Mayor James G. McCleaf II
Assistant Mayor Anthony Drury
Councilwoman Joan Knode
Councilman Bill Green
Councilman Tim Fraker
Councilman James Kalbfleisch
Councilwoman Maya Haines

Also attending Town Clerk Donnie Stotelmyer

Mayor James G. McCleaf II called the meeting to order.

Guests

Asst. Mayor Tony Drury introduced Rick Schuman who operates a local electronic recycling company. Mr. Schuman explained to the Mayor and Council that he has assisted the towns of Smithsburg and Boonsboro with recycling events. He stated he tries to keep the cost down from cleanup efforts by sorting items and removing those items that can be recycled. He also suggested the Town partner with Goodwill Industries who has an agreement with Dell - who purchases all used Dell equipment back from Goodwill. The Mayor and Council scheduled a spring cleanup for the Town of Williamsport for Saturday, April 28, 2012 and a rain date of Saturday, May 19, 2012. This event will be held in the pool parking lot located in Byron Memorial Park.

Unfinished Business

Mayor James McCleaf informed the Council that the Town received a request for financial support from student Melinda Malott of 17330 Tamarack Drive Williamsport MD 21795. Ms. Malott is seeking funding to participate with the People to People student leader ambassador program. The tuition needed is \$5,294 which includes airfare, meals and tuition for the program. To date she has collected \$2,110 towards her goal. Mayor McCleaf informed the Council this will be on the upcoming Council agenda for next meeting on Monday, March 12, 2012.

Mayor James McCleaf reviewed with the Council Review of Proposed Order on the electric rate increase in Case No. 9281.

The Town filed an application requesting a rate increase of \$173,815 in base rates, timed to coincide with a decrease in wholesale power costs. The Proposed Order denied the

Application, but authorized an increase in annual revenues of \$167,218, which is 96 percent of the amount requested.

The Proposed Order will become a final Order of the Commission on March 20, 2012, unless a party files an appeal or the Commission decides to take action on its own behalf. All parties, including the Town, have until March 5, 2012 to file a Notice of Appeal. Our recommendation is that the Town not appeal the Proposed Order. However, we need to be prepared to respond, as appropriate, if Staff or the Office of the People's Counsel file an appeal.

New Business

Mayor James McCleaf reviewed with the Council that Town resident Mr. and Mrs. William & Kathy Emerson of 21 West Church Street Williamsport MD 21795 had a water problem they experienced on January 30, 2012. The Emersons had 5-6" of water in their basement caused by a broken water pipe. Williamsport Fire Company 2 was called to pump their basement out. The Emersons are requesting that the Mayor and Council consider reducing the sewer charge on their water bill. The Mayor and Council discussed and were all in agreement to waive part of Emerson's sewer charges.

Mayor James McCleaf reviewed with the Council that the Town received a grant award of \$600 from the heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. This grant will be used to support the retreat through Williamsport Civil War event. Mayor McCleaf informed the Council that this would need to be voted on at the next scheduled Council meeting.

Mayor James McCleaf reviewed with the Council the State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation Constant Yield Tax Rate - Exemption 2012/13 for the Town of Williamsport. He stated that Section 6-308 of the Tax-Property Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires the Department of Assessment and Taxation to certify to all taxing authorities a Constant Yield Tax Rate that will produce the same revenue in the coming taxable year that was produced in the prior taxable year. This does not prevent the reduction of the tax rate.

Section 2-205(d) states that:

"The Director shall exempt a municipal corporation from the constant yield tax rate provisions of § 6-308 of this article if a difference of less than \$25,000 exists between:

- (1) the property tax revenue that is provided by applying the municipal corporation real property tax for the preceding taxable year to the estimated assessment of all real property in the municipal corporation; and
- (2) the property tax revenue that is provided by applying the constant yield tax rate for the next taxable year to the estimated assessment of all real property in the municipal corporation."

Mayor McCleaf stated that Constant Yield Tax Rate would remain the same with no increase for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Town Clerk Donnie Stotelmyer informed the Mayor and Council that all the truck traffic signs prohibiting truck traffic in the Town center have been installed and that the Washington County Sheriff's Dept will be present to enforce the new Truck Traffic Ordinance.

Mayor James McCleaf stated that he and Town Clerk Donnie Stotelmyer recently met with State Senator Edward Kasemeyer who is chairman of the Budget and Taxation Committee. This meeting was held to discuss Senate Bill 188 that the Washington Delegation had submitted. Mayor McCleaf stated this meeting went well and we will wait to see the final outcome will be.

Councilwoman Joan Knode raised concerns over purchasing advertisements in the Trail book. She questioned the Mayor and Council do these advertisements help promote tourism to the town of Williamsport. The Council advised that they were unaware of the impact of these advertisements. They suggested she speak to local business owners to see if their business has been affected by these advertisements.

Mayor James McCleaf informed the Council that Senator George Edwards has filed a Bond Bill on behalf of the C & O Canal National Park to help restore Lock 44 and railroad lift bridge.

Citizen Participation

Town resident Ken Lafferty questioned the Mayor and Council about town residents not curbing their dogs when in public. The Council suggested placing a reminder in the Town's newsletter .

Asst. Tony Drury made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Maya Haines with all voting in favor meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnie Stotelmyer
Town Clerk
Town of Williamsport